

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: JOINT LIBERAL-NATIONALIST PARTY PRESS STATEMENT

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 5053

1. THE JOINT PRESS CAMPAIGN BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES AIMED AT INCREASING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL LIFE (SEE REFTEL) HAS BEGUN. IN A LONG JOINT STATEMENT SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH PARTIES, AND PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 6, A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE COUNTRY IS UNDERTAKEN.

2. IN A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF GOH ECONOMIC DATA, THE PARTIES ATTACK THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT LINE THAT THE BULK OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC ILLS IS DUE TO EFFECTS OF HURRICANE FIFI. THE DECLARATION CONCLUDES THAT ALL MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS WERE ON THE DOWNTURN BEFORE FIFI HIS AND WERE CAUSED BY THE INEPTNESS OF THE LOPEZ REGIME.

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3. THE DECLARATION STRONGLY ADVANCES THE THESIS THAT THE COUNTRY CANNOT OVERCOME THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH THE PRESENT DE FACTO GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO ALLOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE NATION'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROCESSES THROUGH A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE PARTIES SAY, "IN SUMMARY, WE CANNOT LEAVE THE NATION SUBJECT TO THE VACILLATIONS OF GENERAL LOPEZ, THE INCAPACITY OF HIS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND TO HIS IRRESPONSIBLE PLAYING WITH THE DESTINY OF THE NATION.... THE POLITICAL PARTIES BELIEVE THEMSELVES OBLIGATED TO DENOUNCE THE FUTILITY OF ALL RECONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT IF THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO EMBRACE THE MISTAKEN POLICY OF KEEPING THE CITIZENS AT A DISTANCE SINCE GENERAL LOPEZ INSISTS ON MAINTAINING THE CITIZENRY AT THE MARGIN OF ITS DESTINY BY MEANS OF AN IMPOSED GOVERNMENT.... THE POLITICAL PARTIES STATE THAT THEY WILL NOT AT ANY TIME SUPPORT THE TASKS THAT THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKES BECAUSE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION REQUIRES THE ORGANIZATION OF A JURIDICAL-CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.... THE POLITICAL PARTIES REITERATE TO THE HONDURAN PEOPLE THEIR INVARIABLE DECISION TO FIGHT FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL NORMALIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLICA AND TO RETURN TO THE HONDURAN PEOPLE THE FREE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHTS AS MEN AND CITIZENS."

4. COMMENT: THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. IN THE PAST, THEIR EFFORTS HAVE NOT HAD THE SLIGHTEST EFFECT ON GOVERNMENT ACTION, AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS DECLARATION WILL BE ANY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, IT DOES SERVE TO REMIND THE PEOPLE THAT THE PARTIES STILL CONTINUE TO EXIST EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE IGNORED BY THE REGIME.
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